MINUTES OF THE 7 JULY 2020
SCCOG EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING
Via ZOOM

Present: Fred Allyn, III, Mike Urgo, Tom Sparkman, Keith Hedrick, Tom Sparkman
Staff: James Butler, Amanda Kennedy, Kate Rattan

Vice Chairman Allyn opened the meeting at 8:30 a.m.

1. LOTCIP 2020 Solicitation Update

The Executive Director noted that the SCCOG had received eight applications, seven of which have been deemed eligible, in SCCOG's third LOTCIP solicitation for projects. He said that in this round, only a pre-application was required, and that the SCCOH had a little over $17 Million to fund projects at this time. Transportation Program Manager Kate Rattan presented the seven eligible applications, the details of which were summarized on a matrix made part of these minutes. She explained that the Town of Stonington's submission was not eligible because it did not meet the minimum project threshold of $300,000. Discussion ensued.

MOTION: To endorse and forward to the SCCOG board the seven pre-applications received for LOTCIP funding, with the recommendation that the SCCOG approve them all to submit full applications (Urgo, Hedrick). So voted unanimously.

2. Section 5310 Enhanced Mobility Solicitation Update

Ms. Rattan reported that ten applications for Section 5310 funding have been received. Staff will review these and make a recommendation to the Executive Committee at their August meeting.

3. Other CTDOT Funding Update

The Executive Director reported That Ms. Rattan had attended an RPO meeting hosted by CTDOT where CTDOT staff had explained the status of their funding programs, which were declining. Ms. Rattan discussed several funding programs of interest to towns.

4. Funding for COG Work in COVID Response/Recovery Update

The Executive Director reported that the 9 COGs in the state had been encouraged by OPM to submit a joint application for CARES Act funding to cover COVID related costs incurred from March 1 through December 31, and to also submit an application to the State that will be part of a State application to EDA for funds to cover COVID Recovery work for the two-year period January 1, 2021 through December 31, 2022. The first was submitted two weeks ago, but the OPM Underscretary had responded that all COVID –related work must be for overtime work, which COGs do not pay for, as all COG staff are salaried employees, and overtime is never compensated. This is a problem as the COGs have previously been told by the State that this work cannot be charged to DEMHS or to OPM Regional Service Grants (RSG). The CTCOG Chairman is continuing to discuss this with OPM.

5. SCCOG Municipal Long-Term Recovery Planning Update

The Executive Director reported that the 18-person DEMHS Region 4 Long-Term Recovery Steering Committee has been named, has three co-chairs including SCCOG Chairman Nickerson, and will meet for the second time tomorrow. The first order of business for the Steering Committee will be to appoint a Health and Social Services/Housing Working Group.

6. Re-Opening SCCOG Office Update

The Executive Director reported that the SCCOG office has reopened to all staff. He summarized some of the steps taken to make the office safe, including protocols that staff are following. For now, only staff will be allowed in the office, and meetings will continue to be conducted virtually.

7. Other

The Executive Director informed the Executive Committee that OPM has informed all COGs that the Regional Performance Incentive Program (RPIP) will not be funded this year. SCCOG had submitted two applications.

CTDOT Deputy Director Garrett Eucalido is asking to meet with all the state's COGs. The Executive Committee approved of him meeting with SCCOG at the July meeting.

The Executive Director stated he had received a request by John Forbis, a volunteer with the CT National Estuarine Research Preserve to address the SCCOG. The Executive Committee approved of him meeting with SCCOG at the September meeting.

The Executive Director stated he had received an email from SCWA General Manager Josh Cansler forwarding a letter from SCWA RAB Vice Chairman Barry Weiner asking that the SCCOG nominate three persons for the position with the term expiring on September 18, 2020, currently held by SCWA Vice-Chair Harry Watson. Mr. Cansler has advised that Mr. Watson would like to be re-nominated and re-appointed. Mr. Urgo asked if members of the COG might wish to serve on the SCWA Board. The Executive Director provided a brief history of SWA and its relationship to the SCCOG. At one time, there were three SCCOG members on the five-person SCWA board; currently there are none. He noted that Mr. Watson was the Mayor of the Town of Groton when first appointed to SCWA.

MOTION: To recommend to the SCCOG consideration of the nomination for re-appointment of Harry Watson to the SCWA board (Sparkman, Hedrick).

After additional discussion, it was agreed that the Executive Committee minutes would reflect that the Executive Director would notify all SCCOG members in advance of the meeting of this nomination, and would ask that any SCCOG member interested in serving on the SCWA Board make that known prior to or at the SCCOG's July 15th meeting.

The motion was voted on and unanimously approved.

The Executive Director reported that during final design of the City of Groton's Poquonnock Road LOTCIP project, that additional required items has raised the final cost from a Commitment to Fund cost of $2,185,600 to a Final Design figure $2,584,600.

MOTION: To approve of an increase in the cost of the City of Groton's Poquonnock Road LOTCIP project from a Commitment to Fund cost of $2,185,600 to a Final Design figure $2,584,600 (Sparkman, Urgo). So voted unanimously.

Mr. Sparkman suggested placing the possible cancellation of the August SCCOG board meeting on the July meeting agenda.

8. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 9:35 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

James S. Butler, Executive Director